

### **Northwest Illinois**

Yellow walnut tree leaves continue to fall in northwest Illinois. Dogwood/sumac are red. Sugar maple is beginning to yellow. Everything else is green in much of the area, including Carroll County.

In the Quad Cities area, though the landscape is dominantly green, some mustard yellow colors along roadsides are due to goldenrod and wild sunflowers. Also along roadsides and along the edge of woodlands, fall color monitors are seeing more maroon colors from dogwoods and sumac. Some yellowing is occurring in walnut and stressed trees like ash and river birch. In the woodlands, the dominant cauliflower white color in the ground cover is attributed to the white snakeroot plant. As crops begin to mature and dry down, expect to see duller yellow and beige colors in corn and soybean fields.

### **Northeast/North-Central Illinois**

Colors in McHenry County area starting to turn. Silver maples are showing some purple and red. Some sumacs are showing red. The walnuts are yellowing and losing leaves fast. At this early stage, everything else is nice and green.

Yellow walnut tree leaves continue to drop, while hackberry is turning a greenish yellow grey; chokecherry is yellow. Bur oaks are showing spotty reddish yellow patches. Sassafras is thinking about turning colors in the Will County area.

At Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Parks, leaf watchers are seeing little to no color change yet.



*Starved Rock Visitor Center; Hackberry*



*Starved Rock State Park 9/18/19*

### **West Central Illinois**

There is a slight bit more color being seen in the trees in McDonough County, but not much. Walnuts are turning yellow and dropping leaves. A few sugar maples are starting to turn yellow, but there are no great shows of reds and oranges yet. Ironwood are browning. Kentucky coffee tree is starting to turn yellow. Serviceberry is starting to yellow, but not getting any reds yet. Sumac and sassafras are showing the most color of anything - lots of red and maroon.

Any color change is very minimal at this point, only noticing some slight changes to some understory maples, elms and hop hornbeams at Argyle Lake State Park.

### **Central Illinois**

In the Sangamon County area, upland areas have black walnut trees well on the way to yellow with leaves dropping; black cherry trees are starting to yellow; hickories and oaks are still green, though stressed trees are yellowing here and there. Vines are beginning to show red. In the bottoms, cottonwood and sycamore are yellowing; sweetgums are beginning to turn red; elm and ash are still green; and, many native shrubs are showing yellow and reds. Vines are beginning to turn red. Peak color may be best be seen in mid-October.

In Coles County, some of the leaves on black walnuts in upland areas are turning yellow due to stress from dry weather. Cottonwoods in some areas are also beginning to turn a dull yellow for the same reason.

### **Southern Illinois**

Ash and maple trees in some areas of southern Illinois are showing yellow, then browning and dropping leaves due to drought. Sour gum/black gum trees are showing some red. Sassafras is just beginning to turn yellow, orange and red. Cypress needles are looking less green, with a few trees already beginning to turn the red-brown at the Cache River State Natural Area.

In Jackson County, tulip poplar, sycamore, and walnut are showing yellow. Sassafras are showing purple. Most of the colors are in the low-lying areas...and most areas in the region are still summer green.